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**68 Documents considered during determination of patentability:**  
**DE 43 12 264 A1**  
**US 53 91 168 A**  
**US 53 52 222 A**

**54 Bipolar surgical grasping instrument**

**57** In order to simplify to the greatest extent possible the design of a bipolar surgical grasping instrument with two pivotable arms that are mounted on the end of a sleeve joint and which are pivotable by means of articulated lever elements via push/pull rods displaceable within a sleeve joint, it is proposed that the push/pull rods and the articulated lever elements consist of electrically-conducting material, and are electrically connected to one another, such that the first arm is electrically connected with the articulated lever elements assigned to it, and the second arm is connected with the articulated lever elements assigned to it through an insulating element, such that the second arm is electrically connected with the sleeve joint via its pivotable mount, and that the first arm is electrically insulated from the second arm and the sleeve joint but mounted in a manner so that it may rotate about the sleeve joint.

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